

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed May 2, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, and 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,966,126 to Szabo; rejected claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,767,854 to Anwar; and indicated that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.¹

By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 7, 11, 17, and 22 and cancel claim 6.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 17, and 22 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Applicants thus submit that claims 1-5 and 7-22 are in condition for immediate allowance.

¹ Regarding the rejection based on Anwar, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate under which subsection of 35 U.S.C. 102 the rejection is made.

CONCLUSION

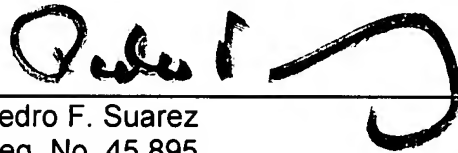
Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-080-UTIL/2003P00304US.

Respectfully submitted,

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